

## The Times' Daily Short Story.

## EIGHT ABREAST

(Copyright, 1904, by C. B. Lewis.)  
"There they come! Steady, now!"  
"See and hear 'em, Tom?" queries an old veteran of his right hand man as he peers over the top of the earthwork.

"Aye, Ben!" is the answer.  
Around the bend of the road 200 infantry formed up in lines eight abreast. The width of the road allowed for no more. With bayonets fixed and muskets at the trail they waited for a minute and then made a dash. From the center of the earthwork leaped a sheet of flame a third of the way across the bridge—from the right and left other sheets of flame. Every musket had a rest on top of the earthworks—every slight covered a human target. The head of the advancing column did not reach the planks of the bridge. It melted away in the midst of the obstructions, to create other obstructions, and forty men lay dead and wounded as the smoke lazily drifted down the stream.

"Purdy fair fur what time we was at it," said Ben as he rose up for a look after reloading.

"We ought to get at least twenty more at sich elus shootin'," growled Tom in reply.

"They'll come ag'in, of course?"

"Don't be a fool, Ben! D'ye think the loss of forty or fifty men would stop one of our divisions from gettin' somewhere? If you feel tired and sleepy you'd better ask for leave to go to the rear."

"Say, I don't want too much of yer chin, old man!"

"Oh, yer don't! Wan, ye jest 'tend to fightin' and dyin' and don't worry about my chin. Better shet yer eyes this time and see if ye can't damage some of 'em."

"That fish was a feeler to develop the strength defendin' the bridge and to see if it was mined for blowin' up. Around the bend of the road they laughed at the idea of a hundred men holding a division at bay. Further back the soldiers fretted and fumed, and officers swore at the delay.

"Get ready! Fire at will!"

This time a column of 500 men, formed eight abreast, as before, dashed at the bridge with ringing cheers, and though the first four or five ranks went down others lived to reach the earthwork and to make a fierce fight for its possession. For ten minutes there were shot and shout and curse and groan, and then the bridge was clear again, clear of all but the dead and wounded.

The veteran Ben was one of the half dozen who started to cheer as the enemy sullenly fell back, but Tom interrupted him with:

"What yer makin' a cussed fool of yerself for?"

"We've licked 'em ag'in!"

"Licked hell! If this war don't end in less'n three months you won't know 'nuff to pound sand! The idea of yer raypin' and whoopin' over a victory

when we've lost at least twenty men and when we areartin to be wiped out, body and butes! Look along the lines!"

Ben looked up and down the lines and shivered as he noted the dead and wounded who had fallen out. And now the enemy developed a force to the right, another to the left, and the men crept forward to the very brink of the ravine and opened such a hot fire that no defender of the earthwork could lift his head. Under cover of this fire a force formed up in the road for a dash across the bridge. The captain sent an order along the earthwork, and each crouching man made ready to rise up and fire when the critical moment came.

"Say, this is gettin' to be red-hot!" exclaimed Ben as the bullets sent the dirt flying over his head.

"Wan, we don't need any ice jest now," grimly replied Tom. "We are goin' to git licked on this deal."

"Not licked, but wiped out. The orders are to hold the bridge to the last, and our captain's the man to do it. Purty leetle fight—mighty purty. Lots o' heads will git bu'sted when we rise up to fire. Never had a bullet through yer cokenut, did ye?"

Tom did not answer. Just then came the order to fire at will, and as the muskets looked over the earthworks the enemy cheered and dashed for the bridge a third time. Over the rocks and bushes obstructing the road, over the wounded, crying out, over the dead and over the blood spots, and again they reached the earthworks and fought hand to hand.

"Guess they'll stay licked this time!" growled Ben as the enemy fell back after ten minutes' fighting.

"Oh, ye do!" sneered Tom as he jabbed his bayonet into the earthwork to clear it of blood. "Wan, of all the blamed idiots in Grant's army you take the cake. We've got about ten men left to hold a division, and ye are shoutin' for a victory!"

Now, the enemy, maddened by the delay and resistance, crossed men above and below the bridge, and they were soon taking the breastwork in the rear. The captain was down, his lieutenants were down. A corporal had command of the remnant of the hundred men.

"What y'e call this?" asked Ben as the bullets began to come in from flank and rear.

"Next door to hell!" replied Tom. "Face about and see if ye can't hit a barn door."

"I've dropped a man every time I've fired, and—"

And half an hour later, wounded in arm and shoulder and hip, a powder stained, dust covered old veteran appeared before his colonel and saluted and said:

"Company, F, sir; detailed to hold the bridge above."

"Well?"

"Enemy forced the crossing half an hour ago, captain dead, lieutenants dead, all dead but me!" M. QUAD.

## GOWN GOSSIP.

Lace stocks, berthes and collars are made to match the gown.

Sashes are used on young girls' Russian blouse suits of white linen in place of the patent leather belts.

Skirts are growing fuller and fuller in Paris, and if predictions are to be relied on the end is not yet in sight.

On some of the light gowns, especially white dresses, broad ribbon sashes are taking the place of the deep girdle.

The gray voile and crepe de chine gowns are becoming more and more a favorite. These costumes are heavily trimmed.

Braided taffetas, embroidered pongees and embroidered linens are supplanting plain materials for shirt waist suits except in the case of strictly tailored gowns.

The waists are simpler and are fastened after the old style baby waist, with berthes, fichus and capes of lace as trimmings. Many of the bodices and sashes are of flowered taffeta ribbons.

—New York Post.

## To Prevent Fever Sores.

Fever sores, when they are allowed to develop, are very painful and most disgusting, and yet they can easily be cured in the beginning by keeping a ball of saltpeter on hand and at their first appearance moistening the ball with water and rubbing it on the spot.

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## GREELEY IN THE ROCKIES.

The Way He Sobered Up a Boisterous Hotel Crowd.

In the "Memoirs of Henry Villard" there is a chapter in which the author describes a meeting with Greeley in the Rockies. The "Tribune philosopher" having met with an accident which crippled him for several weeks, was an unwilling guest at the Denver House, the only "hotel" in the city, a rude shack of a building, with canvas partitions, the greater part given up to the bar and gaming tables, and therefore not a place conducive to the quiet and repose of invalids.

Mr. Villard noticed a change gradually taking place in the usually benign features of the philosopher, his Christian virtues gradually losing control over him, until finally one day he lost his temper completely and swore at his disturbers "so violently that I dared not believe my ears."

His wrath, however, did not culminate until the third night of his tortures. About 10 o'clock he got up and limped into the barroom, where he thus addressed the astonished tipplers:

"Friends, I have been in pain and without sleep for almost a week, and I am well high wern out. Now I am a guest at this hotel, I pay a high price for my board and lodging and am entitled to rest during the night. But how can I get it with all this noise going on in this place?"

"Then," adds Mr. Villard, "he addressed one of the most pathetic appeals I ever heard to those around him to abandon their vicious ways and become sober and industrious. He spoke for nearly an hour and was listened to with rapt interest and the most perfect respect. He succeeded, too, in his object. The gambling stopped, and the bar was closed every night at 11 o'clock as long as he remained."

## THE CASPIAN SEA.

One of the Remarkable Physical Features of the Globe.

One of the most remarkable physical features of the globe is the deep and wide depression in the hollow of which stands the Caspian sea and near to it the sea of Aral. The Caspian is nearly as large as France, and its surface is eighty-four feet below the level of the Black sea. The sea of Aral is nearly as large as Ireland and is very little over the sea level. Within recent geological times the vast expanse in which these lakes are found was sea. Its floor has been gradually raised, and the waters filling the depressions are all that is left of an ancient Mediterranean. A strange feature of both bodies of water is that although they receive large rivers, especially the Caspian, into which the Volga, the Ural river and scores of streams from the Caucasus flow, both have for many years been getting shallower. Evaporation, for they have no outlet, exceeds the inflow. But, for some climatic reason probably, the sea of Aral and its neighbor, Lake Balkhash, have since 1891 been increasing in depth. Whereas the Caspian, like the Dead sea, is very salt, owing to the rate of evaporation, Aral and Balkhash are brackish only. These remnants of what was once a great sea opening into the ocean, still contain marine fish and seals. Some of the latter survive in the Aral and Balkhash lakes, having gradually become fitted for their habitat, though it is no longer salt, but merely brackish, and, in the case of Balkhash, actually fresh water.—London Telegraph.

## A Back Action Joke.

The traveling men of Maine are noted for the jokes that they are always springing on the public, but recently one of them got into trouble in an unexpected way. His parents celebrated their golden wedding, and the drummer had long planned to spend the day with them. But when the day arrived he found that he was too far from his home to get back to it, so he sent a telegram to his father. He thought that it was a good time to get off a joke on the old man, so he merely sent the message, "Is marriage a failure?" He was somewhat taken aback when he got the reply, "Marriage is not, but the results sometimes are."

## Where She Had Felt.

"See here!" exclaimed Mr. Clubb upon discovering next morning that all his "change" was gone. "During your talk to me when I came in late last night I believe you remarked among other things that 'woman feels where man thinks.'"

"I did," replied his wife. "You have no feeling, and—"

"Well, I merely want to say you're mistaken if you suppose I do my thinking in my pocket!"—Catholic Standard and Times.

## Beauty Points in Japan.

In the Japanese ideal of beauty these are the desired "points." Her face and figure, hands and feet and her nose must be long and narrow, her arms and limbs slender and her hips small. Broad hips are the one unpardonable sin. Few Japanese women measure five feet, so the length of the figure is relative.

## POWER IN FISH RATION

Secret of Wonderful Mobility of Japanese Army.

LIVE LONG ON A LITTLE FOOD.

Soldiers Carry Dried Fishy Specimens, Each of Which Lasts a Man One Week—How the Fish Is Prepared—Independence of Troops on the March.

General John F. Weston, chief of subsistence of the American army, has solved what he believes to be the great secret of the wonderful mobility of the Japanese army, says a Washington special to the Chicago Record-Herald. It lies in the field ration, a sample of which he has received from Major W. R. Barker at Nagasaki, one of the American officers who are watching the war. The ration shows that the Japanese soldier can live and fight for a month on a food supply that weighs less than the daily ration of the American soldier in the field.

The fish received by General Weston is about seven inches long and an inch and a half thick in the middle, dried until it resembles petrified wood. It weighs only twelve ounces, but Major Barker says it will sustain a Japanese soldier for seven days.

When soldiers are on the march they eat the fish just as it is, biting off small pieces, which are thoroughly masticated, but when they are in camp the fish is shaved off in small slices and cooked with rice. The fish resembles a mackerel, but its Japanese name is "mamibushi." The fish is about two feet long and thick and solid before preparation for the army ration. In preparing it for army use it is cut in two and steamed and dried alternately until it is reduced to about one-eighth of its original size, with a corresponding reduction in weight.

Each Japanese soldier can carry enough fish and rice to last him three or four weeks, and a whole army can be made independent of the commissary trains that are indispensable in other armies.

Dried fish is used only as a ration. The regular daily ration in the Japanese army consists of one and a half pounds of rice and half a pound of canned meat. The daily ration in the United States army weighs about four pounds, and the emergency ration is not a great deal lighter.

## JAPAN'S PREPAREDNESS.

Her Mechanical Engineer Says Plans for War Were Made Long Ago.

A. F. White, who is employed by the Japanese government as mechanical engineer at the government shipyard at Tokyo and who was recently in Washington on his way to England for a vacation of a few weeks, is decidedly optimistic regarding the outcome of the war between Japan and Russia and is confident Japan will be victorious, says the New York Times.

"Only those who have been in Japan," he said, "can form any idea of the preparedness of that country for the present war with Russia. Japan's army and navy officers have been studying strategy for years with a view to this very fight. They are executing every day plans the formation of which they began years ago."

"The Japanese feel that they are fighting for their very lives. They are not boastful or overconfident. They were convinced that they were superior to the Russians on sea, but that they would easily be victorious on land they did not expect."

"Every man in Japan capable of carrying a gun expects to be called on and is ready to respond promptly. The method of recruiting the Japanese army in the spring was to run trains through the country, stopping at certain specified places to take on recruits. Upon arrival in Tokyo, Osaka or some of the other cities which were selected as places of rendezvous they marched to a temple which had been set aside for the purpose. Each man would have a number, and within the temple he would find the duplicate of that number planned to a bundle of clothing and an entire outfit, including a gun. He went in the temple a recruit, fresh from the fields, and in a few minutes he emerged a soldier, for these were all reserves. Each man's personal clothing was returned to his family carefully packed and at the government's expense. The whole system was perfect. It went like clockwork."

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## IN BOSTON MARKETS.

Quotations on the Leading Products That Are in Demand.

Boston, June 7.—The demand for butter has been quiet during the week and considerable has gone into cold storage, for receivers' account. Receipts are larger, and prices are easy at the decline. Northern creamery, 19¢/20¢; western, 18¢/19¢; firsts, 17¢/18¢; Vermont dairy, 17¢/18¢.

New cheese is coming in a little more freely, but the demand is limited. Old cheese is quiet at the lower prices quoted. Round lots, Vermont twins, 8¢/9¢; New York twins, 9¢/10¢; Liverpool is quoted unchanged at 3¢ for new white and colored.

Eggs are firm for eastern fresh gathered, and full prices are being obtained. Western are still in full supply, though receipts are falling off. The quotations are: Choice nearby, 20¢/21¢; eastern, 19¢/20¢; western, 18¢/19¢.

There is a slow demand for apples, prices being steady on choice lots. Receipts have fallen off largely. Russets, 2¢/3¢; Baldwins, 2¢/2½¢; northern spies, 2¢/2½¢; No. 2, all grades, 1¢/1½¢.

Beans are firm, but the demand is moderate, sales being mostly in small lots. Carload lots, pea, 1¢/1½¢; medium, 8¢; yellow eyes, 2¢/2½¢; red kidneys, 3¢/3½¢; California small white, 2¢/2½¢; foreign pea, 1¢/1½¢; 1.05; foreign medium, 1¢/1½¢; jobbing prices, 10¢/11¢ higher.

The supply of strawberries is now pretty well sustained. The cool weather has helped to keep up the condition of the fruit, and the settlement of the transportation troubles has removed the difficulties resulting from delayed arrivals. The Norfolk berries are about done, but Baltimore, Maryland and Delaware fruit is in full supply. Some Jersey berries are also offering, but the season in that state is not yet fully under way. Low prices have prevailed, the receivers quoting 6¢/8¢ on ordinary fruit, with choice at 10¢/12¢.

Watermelons have sold slowly for the few here, about 30¢ being the price asked.

Potatoes are in steady demand at unchanged quotations. Arrowroot hebrons, 1¢/1½¢; Green mountains, 1¢/1½¢; Dakota reds, 75¢/85¢; new southern, 55¢/55¢ per bbl.

Large bunches of new southern celery are selling at 1¢/1½¢ per bbl.

Bermuda onions are higher at 2¢ per cwt, with Egyptian lower at 2¢/2½¢ per bx.

Yellow turnips are firm at 2¢ per bbl; white French, 2¢ per bbl; beets, 2¢ per bx; carrots, 1¢/1½¢ per lb.

Cucumbers are selling at 2¢/2½¢ per bx.

New southern white squash sell at 1¢/1½¢ per pkg; marrow, 2¢/2½¢.

New southern cabbage is quoted at 1¢/1½¢/2¢ per cwt.

Lettuce is lower at 15¢/35¢ per doz; radishes, 5¢ per doz; mint, 25¢ per doz; cress, 35¢ per doz; leeks, 1¢ per doz.

String beans are quoted at 2¢/2½¢/3.50 per bx for green and 2¢/2½¢/3.50 for wax. Green peas are firm at 2¢ per bush.

Spinach is selling at 15¢/20¢ per bu and kale at 10¢ per bu. Beet greens are quoted at 25¢ per bu; dandelions, 30¢ per bu; parsley, 1¢/1½¢ per bu; peppers, 2¢/2½¢ per cwt; chives, 75¢ per bx.

Southern tomatoes are quotable at 3¢ per cwt.

Rhubarb is steady at 25¢ per bx.

Native asparagus has been in small supply and sold at 1¢/1½¢/2.50 per doz.

Bunch beets are selling at 50¢/85¢ per doz; bunch carrots, 75¢/85¢ per doz; bunch turnips, 50¢/85¢ per doz; bunch onions, 50¢ per bx.

Bermuda potatoes are selling at 80¢ per bbl, with new southern at 55¢/55¢ per bbl; new sweets are quotable at 1¢/1½¢ per pkg.

Hay is quiet but steady, with only a small supply of strictly choice. On the medium and low grades prices favor the buyer, the supply being large.

Straw is steady with a light supply. Feed is firm, with a quiet demand at full prices. Hay, No. 1, 20¢/20¢/21¢; low grades, 13¢/19¢; rye straw, 22¢/26¢; oat straw, 10¢/11¢.

Barrel pork is marked up and some cuts are also higher. The marketing of hogs is without special change. The quality is generally good. Prices aver-

age about 10¢ per 100 pounds higher than a week ago.

There has been a further advance in fresh beef, though the demand is still light. It is said the shippers have made a loss on every car sent to this market, as high as 875 per car in some cases, while export beef has shown a profit. The high cost of cattle in the west, and the low prices ruling here are given as the reason. The receipts have been smaller for Boston, though large for export.

There is a firm market for choice lambs at slightly higher prices; muttons and venals are steady. Western fall lambs, 11¢/12¢; western spring lambs, 15¢/16¢; eastern springers, 25¢/27¢ each; yearlings, 20¢/21¢; muttons, 10¢/12¢; venals, 8¢/9¢.

There is a quiet market for all kinds of poultry, with western fowls in full supply and easier. Fresh killed northern and eastern chickens and fowls are steady. Frozen western turkeys, 18¢/19¢; native broilers, 30¢/40¢; frozen western chickens, 14¢/15¢; fowls, northern, 15¢/15¢; western, 13¢/13¢; spring ducks, 11¢.

Continued wet weather in the west, and late estimates of a small winter wheat crop have been the principal factors in the late bull movement. This strength has been followed by a general increase of speculative trade. One late estimate predicts 50,000,000 bushels less winter wheat east of the Rockies than last year.

## Legendary Heroes of Japan.

The renown of the Japanese for courage was as remarkable in Marco Polo's day as it is in the present, says the Hour Glass. He narrates the story of an invasion of the country by the forces of the Khan of Tartary. A Japanese army of 30,000 men was besieged in a tower. Refusing to surrender, they fought until all but eight of them were killed. On these eight—travelers' wonders must creep in—it was found impossible to inflict any wound. "Now, this was by virtue of certain stones which they had in their arms, inserted between the skin and the flesh. And the charm and virtue of these stones was such that those who wore them could never perish by steel." They were therefore beaten to death with clubs.

## Calve's Sanitarium.

Mme. Emma Calve has founded a sanitarium at Cabbieres, near her residence in the Aveyron, says the Paris Daily Messenger. There nearly sixty young girls in need of pure air and medical attendance are received every summer, all the expenses being borne by the great singer. It is reported that burglars have paid a visit to the sanitarium and removed everything they could lay their hands on. Mme. Calve has nevertheless given instructions for the preparation of the sanitarium for the reception of the annual contingent of sick girls.

## Elastic Stockings.

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